

Over a fourth of the entire medical profession gives a portion of its time free to hospitals and charitable institutions and clinics. These are usually the best trained and best known doctors and their fees to the paying patients are probably increased in proportion to the amount of time they give away, Dr. Davis said.

Studies of family incomes show that the average middle class person can never afford to have any but very minor illnesses, if well trained physicians and most approved forms of diagnosis and treatment are secured. Important adjustments will have to be made in the future to fit the fee to the average pocketbook, and to pay the doctor at the same time, Mr. Davis' report showed.

INTELLIGENT STUDENTS SHOW MOST SPEED

The rate at which an individual thinks and acts appears to be as much a part of his particular personality as his smile or the tone of his voice. He is characteristically fast, or slow, or medium. How this constant rate of speed, is revealed in intelligence tests was described by Prof. E. G. Boring and Dr. C. C. Pratt, of Harvard University, before the American Psychological Association recently.

Harvard students were given intelligence tests in which they had to solve puzzles, complete sentences, and do a wide variety of mental tasks, all as quickly as they could. The student who made the highest speed record in one test made the highest in most of the others, and the other students kept pretty closely in the same order for all the tests.

The possibility had been suggested that individuals who take such tests vary in speed according to their ability to concentrate and to organize their forces for difficult mental effort. But the experiment showed that the student who is slow at mental gymnastics is also slow when told merely to press a key as soon as he hears a signal.

The two psychologists pointed out that very little is known about the nature of intelligence, and that speed may turn out to be the most important factor,

SHOW FARMERS HOW TO CURE SWEET CORN QUICKLY

Sometimes unexpected early frosts have cheated farmers out of their seed corn, and corn growers have tried all sorts of tricks to force the corn to dry early, so that when the frost does come it can do no harm.

Prof. A. T. Erwin of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station has tried to find if there is any way of drying full grown corn out ahead of time and making it more sure of escaping the frost. He told of the results of his tests before the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting.

The old fashioned method used by some farmers of cutting the tops of the corn a joint above the ear while the corn is in the denting stage, cutting its teeth, did not help the curing or drying of the corn, Prof. Erwin found. When the corn was cut and shocked, the results were also unsatisfactory.

But when the husks were slit and the seeds exposed to the sun and wind while the corn was still standing in the fields, it cured quickly and about two weeks time was saved. When only a few ears in a field were slit, the damage from birds was considerable, but when an entire field was treated in that way, it did not amount to anything.

This method may mean a considerable saving in such states as Iowa and Illinois where nearly a fourth of all the corn in the United States is grown. It is especially useful in sweet corn growing because the large amount of sugar in the corn holds the water longer.

As long as the corn contains as much as 20 per cent. water, there is danger of spoilage due to freezing. Roasting ears have about 85 per cent. moisture, and somewhere between denting time and frost, the corn must lose more than the 65 per cent. difference.

TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

THE MARVELS OF ANIMAL INGENUITY. By C. A. Ealand. Lippincott. 1925
SCIENTIFIC AMUSEMENTS AND EXPERIMENTS. By C. R. Gibson, Lippincott. 1926.

Mr. Ealand's book is a natural history wonder-book for young people. For the most part it serves its purpose very well, though the author does not discriminate between the mechanical work done by animals, which might legitimately be called animal ingenuity, and adaptations such as the structure of the honey ant and the coloring of birds' eggs. He is also perhaps a little too ready to credit an animal with more intelligence than it really possesses; for example, he perpetuates the myth of beavers felling trees exactly in the right direction. Mr. Gibson's work is frankly of a lighter character, consisting of a miscellaneous collection of elementary experiments in physical chemical and psychological "magic" for the amusement of children.

HASTENS GROWTH OF CUTTINGS BY USING OXIDATION AGENTS

A new method insuring quick rooting of cuttings, and thereby saving time and space in vineyard and nursery operations, was described before the American Association for the Advancement of Science by A.J. Winkler of the California agricultural experiment station.

Mr. Winkler took advantage of the well-known physiological fact that rapid growth is a process requiring rapid use of oxygen by the tissues. He treated grape cuttings with chemicals like hydrogen peroxide and potassium ferricyanide, which belong in the class known as oxidising reagents, having the effect of speeding up the supply and use of oxygen. In all cases he found that the production and growth of roots on his cuttings was materially hastened by the treatment.
